

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

RSR-01 AID-20 EUR-25 DPW-01 /140 W
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R 130326 Z APJP73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 73

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6229

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PONS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 12 APRIL 1973

THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA 12 APRIL 73 REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L/ NOFORN BIEN HOA 0068

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 12 APRIL 1973

REF: A. BIEN HOA 0044

B. BIEN HOA 0053

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

1. ACCORDING TO THE TAY NINH RURAL DEVELOPMENT CADRE BRIEF, APPROXIMATELY 200 VC/NVA TROOPS HAVE BEEN SITUATED IN THE XOM ROC AREA, XT 380360, SINCE APRIL 6, AND THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF 50 MM ANTI- AIRCRAFT MACHINE GUNS, MORTARS AND B-40' S. THEY HAVE GATHERED WORKERS AT THE RUBBER PLANTATIONS OF VEN VEN AND TRA VO TELLING THEM THAT BY APRIL 15, 1973 NVA/ VC FORCES WILL LAUNCH A MAJOR ATTACK ON TRANG BANG, CUT HIGHWAY 1 TO ISOLATE TAY NINH PROVINCE AND REOCCUPY THE LONG HOA - TOA THANH DENSELY POPULATED AREAS.

2. THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF A COMMUNIST PLAN IN TAY NINH PROVINCE TO PLACE THEIR CANDIDATES IN CONTENTION FOR THE
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UPCOMING ELECTION (IN MAY) TO THE VILLAGE COUNCILS. VC
CADRES ARE SENT TO THE VILLAGES TO PROMOTE THE CANDIDACY OF VC

" LEGALS." THE CADRES ARE GIVEN AMPLE FUNDS TO SPEND ON EATING AND DRINKING PARTIES, AND DURING THESE FUNCTIONS USE WHAT THEY HOPE

GOOD WILL CREATED TO DISCUSS THE ELECTIONS AND HOW THE VC LEGAL CANDIDATE COULD BEST SERVE THE PEOPLE. THE TECHNIQUE IS ALREADY BEING TRIED AT THAI HIEP THANH AND LONG THANH VILLAGES, PHU KHUONG DISTRICT. THE GRVN IS ATTEMPTING TO COUNTER THIS PLAN BY INITIATING THOROUGH RECORDS CHECKS ON CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE, BUT THIS WILL PROVE LARGELY INEFFECTIVE AGAINST THE TRUE VC " LEGAL."

3. YESTERDAY MORNING THE ICCS REGION V TEAM AGREED TO CONDUCT SIX MORE INVESTIGATIONS: TWO EACH IN AN LOC, BEN CAT, AND CU CHI; ALL RVN REQUESTED. FOUR FROM XUAN LOC WERE VETOED FOR " TECHNICAL REASONS" (UNSPECIFIED BY OUR CANADIAN SOURCE, BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR BY HIS TONE THAT THE " REASONS" WERE SPURIOUS) BY ONE DELEGATION (WE GUESS THE POLES FROM OTHER REMARKS MADE LATER). INSTRUCTIONS WILL GO OUT TO THE TEAMS CONCERNED, BUT OUR SOURCE IS NOT CERTAIN THAT ALL DELEGATIONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE INVESTIGATIONS. THUS THE REGION V TEAM WILL CONTINUE WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL, BOTH GOOD AND BAD, DESPITE THE GROUNDING OF ALL ICCS HELICOPTERS. ONLY THE AN LOC TEAM WILL REALLY BE AFFECTED BY THE GROUNDING, AND THE CHIEF CANDEL EXPECTS THAT SAIGON WILL ALLOW AN EXCEPTION TO BE MADE AT LEAST TO RESUPPLY THAT TEAM. HE HAS ALREADY REQUESTED AN EXCEPTION BE MADE SO THAT THAT TEAM CAN MAKE ITS FIRST VISIT TO PHUOC LONG PROVINCE ASAP, AND IS AWAITING SAIGON' S REACTION.

4. THE REGION V TEAM RECEIVED AN ANSWER FROM SAIGON CONCERNING STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) (REF A). THE CANADIAN POSITION WAS UPHELD (SAME REF) N BUT NOW THAT THAT HAS BEEN RESOLVED, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE FINDING OTHER PRETEXTS FOR DELAY. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE IS REFUSING TO USE A TRANSLATION THAT CONTAINS THE WORDING " COMMUNIST FORCES." THE CHIEF CANDEL STATES THAT HE PLANS TO CONTINUE THE AGGRESSIVE TACTICS DISCUSSED IN REF B DESPITE THE DEATHS IN MR 1. HE SAYS THAT IF " OTHER DELEGATIONS" (READ, POLES AND HUNGARIANS) WILL NOT ACCOMPANY HIS CANADIANS, THE LATTER WILL GO BY THEMSELVES AND MAKE SEPARATE REPORTS. ALSO, IF " OTHER DELEGATIONS" REFUSE TO INVESTIGATE, AS IN THE CASE OF THE FOUR REQUESTS FROM XUAN LOC YESTERDAY MORNING, HE PLANS TO FILE A REPORT WITH SAIGON AND TO SEND A LETTER
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TO THE PARTY REQUESTING THE INVESTIGATION EXPLAINING EXACTLY WHY AN INVESTIGATION CANNOT BE CONDUCTED, AND WHO REFUSED TO CONDUCT IT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE HUNGARIANS ARE GOING ALONG WITH THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS MORE AND MORE, AND THAT IT' S THE POLES WHO REMAIN THE BIG OBSTACLE IN REGION V.

5. THE BEN CAT ICCS TEAM HAS FINALLY BEGUN WORK IN EARNEST. APRIL 8, ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS JOINED IN AN INVESTIGATION OF AN ALLEGED VC ATTACK ON HOA LOI VILLAGE THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, IN

WHICH FOUR OF THE ATTACKERS WERE KILLED. THE INVESTIGATION WAS REQUESTED BY THE BINH DUONG PROVINCE CHIEF THROUGH THE RVN TPJMC REPRESENTATIVE, AND WAS AGREED TO BY THE INDONESIAN CHAIRMAN, APPARENTLY WITHOUT ANYONE REFERRING THE MATTER TO REGIONV HEAD-QUARTERS. ON APRIL 9, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, THE ENTIRE TEAM DROVE TO BEN CAT FROM ITS LAM SON COMPOUND TO

INVESTIGATE PREVIOUS VC SHELLING ATTACKS IN THE AREA. THIS INVESTIGATION WAS IN RESPONSE TO AN RVN REQUEST MADE WEEKS EARLIER AND NEVER BEFORE OFFICIALLY ACTED UPON. THESE ARE THE BEN CAT TEAM'S FIRST FULL INVESTIGATIONS IN ITS MONTHA AND A HALF OF EXISTENCE.

6. THE ICCS POINT OF ENTRY TEAM FOR THE BIEN HOA AIRFIELD MOVES INTO ITS BILLETES ON THE AIRFIELD TODAY. THE XA MAT TEAM WILL PROBABLY NOT MOVE THERE THIS WEEKEND AS SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF THE GROUNDING OF ICCS HELICOPTERS.

7. CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS FROM CANADIAN SOURCES, THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC IN REGION V HAS STILL NOT RETURNED TO BIEN HOA FROM SAIGON.

8. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME LOW LEVEL AS YESTERDAY. THERE WERE SEVEN ATTACKS BY FIRE REPORTED (TAY NINH, LONG KHANH, AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES), ONLY TWO OVER 20 ROUNDS, AND EIGHT MINOR GROUND PROBES (HAU NGHIA, LONG AN, LONG KHANH, AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES). THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES ON EITHER SIDE IN ANY OF THESE CONTACTS. TON LE CHAM BASE CAMP REMAINED UNDER SIEGE, AND RECEIVED 145 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE, WHICH WOUNDED TWO RANGERS. VIETNAMESE MILITARY SOURCES IN III CORPS HEADQUARTERS SPECULATE THAT THE SUDDEN DECREASE IN NVA/VC ACTIVITY THE PAST FEW DAYS IS THE RESULT OF NVA/VC ORDERS ISSUED BECAUSE OF THE DOWNINGS OF ICCS HELICOPTERS IN MRS 1 AND 4.

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